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REMARKS

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Khoshnevis ('471). However, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the feedstock is in the form of sheets, tapes or wires, clearly distinguishing over Khoshnevis' limited disclosure regarding powder.

With respect to claims 5-18, the Examiner's "position" notwithstanding, applicant respectfully requests substantive examination or allowance. The limitations of these claims set forth positive structural or functional features, and are not just "a matter of design choice." Indeed, claim 10 is independent.

Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned attorney by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail.

Respectfully submitted,

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